

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A splint for a joint between two members of a human or animal body, ~~for example such as the ankle, knee or elbow,~~ composed of

at least one rigid and globally concave shell (1, 2) that can be positioned around the joint, resting on the ~~said joint,~~ wherein the concave shell comprises ~~comprising~~ a chamber (3, 4) made of a flexible plastic material that can be pressurised by any appropriate means, on ~~its inner face,~~ in other words on its a concave inner face of the at least one concave shell, ~~wherein the this~~ chamber ~~being is~~ placed on the concave inner face of the concave shell (1, 2) to supply a supporting cushion between the ~~said concave~~ shell (1, 2) and the joint, and ~~it the chamber~~ covers at least a part of the concave inner face of the concave shell (1, 2), ~~the said splint comprising;~~ and

means (6) of holding the ~~said at least one concave~~ shell (1, 2) in position around the joint, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the at least one concave shell (1, 2) is composed of a single element comprising a rigid part and at least one flexible area (7, 8; 12, 13) to avoid any injury to the oedematous tissue that developed subsequent to a severe or minor sprain of the joint, wherein the flexible area is made from a styrene ethylene butylene styrene (SEBS) block copolymer mixed with a rigid synthetic material from which the rigid part is made so that the shell is made from a single mould wherein the flexible area is chemically bonded to the rigid part of the shell (1, 2) to avoid any injury to the oedematous tissue that developed subsequent to a severe or minor sprain of the said joint.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The Splint~~ splint according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the rigid part of the at least one concave shell (1, 2) is obtained from polypropylene copolymer (PPc).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The splint~~ ~~Splint~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the rigid part of the at least one concave shell (1, 2) is obtained from polyamide 6 (PA 6).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The splint~~ ~~Splint~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the at least one concave shell (1, 2) is rigid ~~at in a~~ its central part (9, 14) and flexible (7, 8; 12, 13) along each of ~~its~~ the longitudinal edges of the at least one concave shell.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The splint~~ ~~Splint~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the at least one concave shell (1, 2) comprises ~~at a in its~~ central part (9, 14)[.] a flexible area (10, 15) corresponding to an area of the ~~said~~ at least one concave shell (1, 2) that rests on a protuberance of the joint,

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The splint~~ ~~Splint~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ ~~further comprised of~~ a porous compressible element (18) placed on the inside of each chamber (3, 4), ~~appreciably~~ filling the inner volume of each of the ~~said~~ chambers (3, 4) when these chambers are not pressurised.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The splint~~ ~~Splint~~ according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the porous compressible element (18) is composed of a foam with a slow resilience.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The splint~~ ~~Splint~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means (6) of holding the at least one concave shell(s) in position around the joint ~~are composed~~ is comprised of at least two velvet finish fabric straps (21, 22), ~~in other words formed from~~ a fabric comprising thin loops on the its faces of the fabric, wherein each of the

velvet finish fabric straps (21, 22) having firstly a free end solidarised to the outer face of the concave shell (1, 2) ~~or a first shell, preferably the inner shell (1) of the splint, in other words the shell placed on the inside of the joint,~~ by an attachment means, ~~for example such as a rivet (23),~~ the ~~said~~ fabric straps (21, 22) being capable of cooperating with a first male attachment means (25) fixed to the outer face of the concave shell (1, 2) ~~or a second shell called the outer shell (2),~~ and secondly having a second male attachment means (24) positioned on the outer face of the strap (21, 22) at ~~the~~ a fixed end of the at least one concave shell (1, 2) ~~or the inner shell (1) and~~ capable of cooperating with the thin loops of the inner face of the velvet finish fabric straps (21, 22).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The splint~~Splint according to claim 9, ~~characterised wherein~~ ~~that~~ the first male attachment means (25) consists of at least two globally rectangular transverse grooves (27) with a straight section, extending perpendicular to the longitudinal edges of the concave shells (1, 2) in the central ~~rigid~~ part (9, 14) of the at least one concave shell(s) (1, 2) and for which ~~the~~ a bottom (28) of the at least one concave shell has a rough surface.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The splint~~Splint according to claim 9, ~~characterised in~~ ~~that~~wherein the first male attachment means (25) are positioned in a recess (26) formed on the outer wall of the at least one concave shell (1, 2) ~~or the outer shell (2)~~ such that the first male attachment means (25) are flush with the surface of the ~~said~~ outer wall.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The splint~~Splint according to claim 9, ~~characterised in~~ ~~that~~wherein the first and second male attachment means (24, 25) consists of hooks capable of cooperating with the thin loops of the velvet finish fabric straps (21, 22).

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Splint~~The splint according to claim 11, ~~characterised in~~ ~~that~~wherein the first male attachment means (25) of the outer face of the concave shell (1, 2) ~~or~~

~~the outer shell (1, 2) of the splint are glued to the bottom of the recesses (26) formed on the outer wall of the~~ at least one concave shell (1, 2) ~~or the outer shell (2).~~

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The splint of claim 1, wherein~~ Application of the splint according to claim 1 for an ankle splint, comprising at least two concave shells (1, 2) capable of being positioned on each side of ~~the~~ an ankle.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Ankle-~~ The splint according to claim 14, characterised in that ~~wherein~~ each concave shell (1, 2) comprises two globally rectangular parallel horizontal slots (29, 30) at its a lower end of the concave shells, one globally rectangular parallel horizontal slot (30) placed above the other globally rectangular parallel horizontal slot (29), and into which the velvet finish fabric tabs (31, 32) extending on each side of a base (5) and that can be positioned under the a heel can be inserted, each velvet finish fabric tab (31, 32) being inserted such that each velvet finish fabric tab passesing under one of thea concave shells (1, 2); by inserting its a free end in the first-lower globally rectangular parallel horizontal slot (29) from the outside towards the inside of the concave shell (1, 2), and then by inserting the said-free end into the second-upper globally rectangular parallel horizontal slot (30) from the inside towards the outside of the said-concave shell (1, 2), before solidarising its free end on the outer wall of the concave shell immediately above the globally rectangular parallel horizontal slots (29, 30).

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Ankle-~~ The splint according to claim 15, characterised in that ~~wherein~~ the free end of at least one velvet finish fabric tab (31, 32) comprises thin loops (33) capable of cooperating with a third male attachment means (34) placed on the outer wall of the concave shells (1, 2) just above the globally rectangular parallel horizontal slots (29, 30), on its inner face, ~~in other words such that~~ the inner face is in contact with the outer wall of the concave shells (1, 2).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ Ankle splint according to claim 16, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the third male attachment means (34) ~~is~~ are positioned in a recess (35) formed on the outer wall of the concave shells (1, 2) such that the third male attachment means (34) ~~is~~ are flush with the surface of the ~~said~~ outer wall.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ Ankle splint according to claim 15, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the base (5) is generally in the shape of a foot.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ Ankle splint according to claim 15, ~~characterised in that it further comprising~~ comprises a stylised representation (37) of a ~~right or left~~ foot on the upper face of the base (5), ~~in other words the face of the base (5) facing the heel.~~

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ Ankle splint according claim 15, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the free end of one of the velvet finish fabric tabs (31, 32) ~~is~~ are fixed to the outer wall of ~~a~~ the concave shell (1, 2) by means of a rivet (36).

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Ankle~~ The splint according to claim 15, ~~characterised in that it further comprising~~ comprises a velvety fabric "strapping" (38) comprising a fourth male attachment means (39, ~~40~~) ~~and (40)~~ on one of ~~its~~ the velvety fabric strapping faces, placed at the corresponding free ends of the velvety fabric ~~said~~ "strapping" (38), and capable of cooperating with the thin velvety fabric loops on the outer face of the tab (34) and the outer face of the strap (~~22~~) ~~or (21)~~, the velvety fabric "strapping" (38) being wound around the concave shells (1, 2) from their lower ends as far as the means (6) to of holding the concave shells (1, 2) in position on each side of the ankle.

22. (Currently Amended) A Method for manufacturing shells (1, 2) of a splint for a joint between two members of ~~the a~~ a human body, ~~for example such as the ankle, knee or elbow,~~

composed of at least two rigid and globally concave shells (1, 2) that can be positioned on each side of the joint, ~~and can applying pressure on the said joint, according to claim 1, characterised in that it consists of comprising:~~

inserting a hot liquid synthetic material that solidifies as it cools in a mould defining the shape of the concave shells (1, 2) to be obtained, wherein the solidified structure defines a rigid part; and ~~then~~

inserting a flexible material into the said mould in at least one area of the ~~said-mould~~ such that a flexible part is formed and chemically bonded to the rigid part of the concave shells.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The M~~The Amethod for manufacturing shells in ~~thea splint for the joint~~ according to claim 22, characterised in that ~~wherein~~ the flexible material is inserted into the synthetic material.